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A processing node is selected from an actual workflow definition composed of the corresponding processing nodes to an actual service flow according to the purpose of use of a client. A virtual workflow definition composed of the virtual node corresponding to the selected processing node is created by a server and displayed on a screen of the client. A link is set for indicating correspondence between the virtual node of the virtual workflow and the processing node of the actual workflow. When an inquiry about the progressing state of the virtual workflow is given from a client, the server searches the processing node being current executed from the actual workflow. If the processing node does not have any link, the server tracks back the processing nodes on the actual workflow for searching the processing node having the link and an access right given from the client and then reply the progressing state of the processing node as the progress information of the virtual workflow to the client.